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ABSTRACT

Science curricula typically do not capitalize on the hands-on, self-initiated learning style of young children. This book provides a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate approach to science education with young children, with special attention to physics and chemistry. The book's introductory chapter is followed by chapters on: (1) science displays; (2) machines and pendulums; (3) science in the sensory table; (4) art activities that incorporate science, music and science; (5) exploring science through cooking activities; and (6) science in the gross-motor arena. Each chapter begins with a section of answers to questions teachers and parents commonly ask. This question-and-answer section is followed by numerous activities that encourage children to explore materials, hypothesize, experiment, and make observations. Each activity is accompanied by a photograph and a description of how to set up the activity or construct the materials. Teachers will find a suggested sequence of implementation so they can start activities simply and build on the children's experiences. Each activity also contains a section called "what to look for" that guides teachers as they observe children interacting with the materials. Suggestions for questions to extend children's thinking accompany each activity. Ideas for related curriculum activities are also included. Eleven appendixes contain resource information and sample assessment forms for each chapter area. (SD)

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